

WEEKLY GROUP BIBLE STUDIES
PART 2 (ACTS)

JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES



INTRODUCTION

We continue to explore the theme of “Be Strong & Courageous” through various episodes in Acts as Jesus’ disciples live out their faith as God leads them.

As we reflect on the empowering of God and the examples of the early church, prayerfully consider what God is saying to you personally and to us as a church. May each study give us fresh strength and courage as we are empowered by the Spirit and inspired by the disciples to be strong and courageous for Jesus!



STUDY 6: PENTECOST SUNDAY

A. RELATE

Share about a time you felt the power and/or presence of God strongly in your life.

B. READ

[Acts 2:1-14](#)

C. REFLECT

After Jesus' resurrection, for 40 days He appeared in different settings at different times speaking and interacting with His disciples ([Acts 1:1-3](#)) instructing them about the kingdom of God and ordering them to not leave Jerusalem but to wait for the promise of the Father, to be baptized/immersed with the Holy Spirit. Approximately 10 days after Jesus ascended to Heaven, this promise is fulfilled! Notice the impact this has on the early church. Consider what role the Spirit has to play in our lives for us to grow in supernatural strength and courage.

D. RESPOND

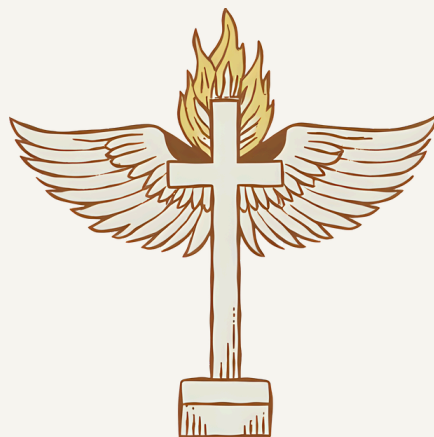
1. As the Holy Spirit visits the gathered disciples, there are various physical manifestations. What do you think is the significance of each of these? (v1-3).
2. What was the immediate result of the Holy Spirit filling the disciples and what impact did this have on those in the surrounding area? (v4-11).

STUDY 6: PENTECOST SUNDAY

3. How would you describe the miracle? What does this reveal about God? (v5-11)
4. What does the mixed response reveal about the world's response to the presence and power of Jesus? (v12-13)
5. Peter boldly stands up with the Apostles and begins to speak publicly to the crowd proclaiming Jesus ([v14, 16-21, 36-30](#)). How does this stand in complete contrast to Peter's denial of Jesus ([Luke 22:54-62](#))? What made the difference?
6. What is the result of this Pentecost event on the disciples and those around them ([Acts 2:37, 41](#))?

E. RELY

- Pray for the Spirit to manifest in your life in a fresh and powerful way.
- Ask the Spirit to fill and empower you, to give you new words to speak, to give you new boldness and courage to speak out loud for Jesus.
- Prayerfully choose a person or a family to speak to about Jesus and pray that God would open doors to reach out to them.



STUDY 7: A PRAYER FOR BOLDNESS AND POWER

A. RELATE

Can you think of a time when you felt nervous or afraid to speak up about your faith or stand for what you believe in? What made it difficult? What helped you in that moment?

B. READ

[Acts 4:23-31](#)

C. REFLECT

Acts 4 marks the beginning of persecution against Jesus' followers—a theme that intensifies through chapters 4–7, culminating in Stephen's martyrdom. The chapter highlights the clash between the world's values and the kingdom of Jesus. Though Peter and John are seen as uneducated and ordinary, their boldness shows that God's power works through everyday people. Their weaknesses don't hinder God—they reveal His glory.

The apostles Peter and John had just been threatened and released by the religious authorities after healing a man in Jesus' name (ch. 3). They had boldly proclaimed that salvation is found in Christ alone and were warned not to speak in His name again ([4:17-18](#)). Rather than shrinking back, they returned to the other believers and turned immediately to prayer (4:23). What follows is not a plea for safety, but a bold, Spirit-filled request for courage and power to keep speaking and acting in Jesus' name.

STUDY 7: A PRAYER FOR BOLDNESS AND POWER

D. RESPOND

1. What do the believers do immediately after Peter and John report what happened (v. 24)? What does this say about their priorities?
2. In vv. 24–28, how do they describe God? Why do you think they start their prayer this way?
3. Look closely at their request in vv. 29–30. What are they asking for? What are they NOT asking for?
4. How does God respond to their prayer in v. 31, and what stands out to you about this response?
5. What do you notice about the role of the Holy Spirit in both their prayer and God’s response?
6. How does this passage challenge or inspire you in how you pray when facing fear, pressure, or opposition?

E. RELY

- This prayer reminds us that courage doesn’t come from within—it comes from God. Instead of asking to avoid trouble, the early believers asked for boldness to speak and power to act.
- What would it look like for you to ask God for boldness this week?
- Where is He calling you to speak or live courageously?

STUDY 7: A PRAYER FOR BOLDNESS AND POWER

Prayer points:

- Pray for one another for God to give each of you boldness in specific situations where you need courage.
- Pray that as a church, we would be united in mission and strengthened to speak God's Word with boldness.



STUDY 8: THE CALL AND COMMISSIONING OF PAUL

A. RELATE

Share a time when you had a high degree of certainty about something and then you found out you were wrong.

Or

Share about a time that you had plans... but the Lord had other plans.

B. READ

[Acts 9:1-22](#)

C. REFLECT

Before Acts 9, the early church was growing rapidly after Jesus' resurrection and ascension. However, this growth sparked opposition from Jewish leaders. In Acts 7, Stephen, a Christian deacon, was stoned to death—the first Christian martyr. Saul (later Paul) approved of Stephen's execution and began violently persecuting believers, dragging them from their homes and imprisoning them ([Acts 8:1–3](#)). Many Christians fled Jerusalem, spreading the gospel to other regions like Samaria. Despite persecution, the message of Jesus continued to spread. This intense backdrop of conflict and fear sets the stage for Saul's surprising encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus.

D. RESPOND

1. Why do you think God chose to confront Saul in such a dramatic way? (vv. 3-6)

Discuss how God uses different methods to reach people, especially those who are resistant or hostile.

2. What does Saul's transformation teach us about the power of God's grace and forgiveness?

Consider how someone so hostile to Christians could become a key leader in the early Church.

STUDY 8: THE CALL AND COMMISSIONING OF PAUL

3. How do you think Ananias felt when God told him to go to Saul, and what does his obedience show us about faith? (v. 13)

Reflect on the tension between fear and trust in God's plan.

4. What role does community play in Saul's conversion and early growth as a believer? (vv. 10-18)

Explore how Ananias, the disciples in Damascus, and others supported Saul. (vv. 23-25 as well)

5. What do we learn about the call of God on Saul's life from these verses? How does that encourage or speak to you? (vv 15-16)

6. How does Saul's immediate preaching about Jesus challenge our expectations of spiritual growth and readiness?

Talk about the balance between preparation and boldness in sharing the gospel.

7. In what ways can Saul's story inspire hope for people we think are "far from God" to be changed?

E. RELY

- Not many of us are called in such a dramatic way as Saul was. However, the Lord does have plans and purposes for all of us as 'chosen vessels' (v. 15).
- For example, Ananias was praying when God spoke to him and told him to visit Saul—a man known for persecuting Christians. This challenges us to not only speak in prayer but to listen, even when what we hear stretches our comfort or expectations.
- How can you encourage each other during the week to be waiting on God in prayer for your next assignment?
- Pray together for people that God puts on your heart.

STUDY 9: THE COURAGE OF PHILIP & THE UNKNOWN DISCIPLES

A. RELATE

Have you ever had a sense that God sent you to someone or sent someone to you? What happened?

B. READ

[Acts 8:1-8](#)

C. REFLECT

At this stage of the journey of the early church, this was the most significant time of persecution they had experienced. Stephen had become the first martyr for Jesus' gospel and it led to a significant scattering of the church throughout Judea and Samaria. During this time, Saul was aggressively detaining Christian men and women from their homes and throwing them into prison. One would think that the believers would lay low and step back from proclaiming the gospel for fear of their safety. But Philip and a several unknown disciples do the opposite! Be inspired by their example as we unpack this episode.

D. RESPOND

1. What do we discover about the scattered believers and Philip? (v4-5)
2. What were the two aspects of his ministry to the people? ([v6-7, 12-13](#))
3. How did this impact the people and even the entire city? ([v8,12](#))
4. It seemed there was still something that these new believers were missing, what was it and why was it so important ([v14-17](#)).
5. How did the initial acts of boldness and courage spur even more courage? ([v25](#)).

STUDY 9: THE COURAGE OF PHILIP & THE UNKNOWN DISCIPLES

E. RELY

- This passage reveals that the disciples were not waiting for a 'perfect' time to share Jesus with others, wherever they were scattered, they kept proclaiming the good news. Pray for a courage that does not wait for the "perfect" time.
- Consider planning a get together as a life group to invite friends and neighbours who are not yet believers.
- Pray that God would grant you:
 - o Opportunities and words to speak about Jesus
 - o Power as you pray for healing, freedom and restoration.



NOTES:

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